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**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS  
OPERATIONAL POLICY  
FOCUSED ASSESSMENT**

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Page 1 of 1

**POLICY:** On-scene paramedics may assist the BLS crew in patient care, providing a focused assessment. A focused assessment is the physical examination of a responsive patient, concentrating on the system identified by the patient's chief complaint. The focused assessment must be documented in the ALS section of the run report.

Documentation must include **at a minimum**, the following information:

- The responding ALS unit must be documented in the responding unit section of the report.
- The names and numbers of the paramedics must be documented in the ALS personnel section of the run report.
- Results and findings of the focused assessment must be documented in the appropriate assessment areas.
- A description of the assessment findings and the care provided by the ALS team (breath sound assessment, blood glucose check, additional patient questioning, etc.) must be documented in the ALS narrative section.
- Include a statement that a focused assessment was provided (e.g., "Focused assessment only").

The member of the ALS crew providing the focused assessment must sign the report on the ALS signature line.

In cases where the ALS crew is on scene to provide manpower only, (e.g. patient movement, packaging or immobilization) **without providing a focused assessment**, the BLS personnel should document the presence and actions of the ALS crew. The ALS unit should be identified in the responding unit section and the "Called Off" bubble should be filled in.

All records with a documented focused assessment by a paramedic must be forwarded to the Milwaukee County EMS offices.

In cases where the ALS and BLS responders are from different non-sharing communities, the focused ALS assessment must be completed on the ALS department's form.

### Example

A focused assessment for chief complaint of shortness of breath:

- Evaluate skin, pulse, and blood pressure
- Evaluate rate and depth of respirations
- Assess for airway obstructions
- Listen carefully to breath sounds

Document all findings.

The BLS unit must complete and document a detailed physical examination for the patient.